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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PROJECT BOYS MEMBER SENTENCED
IN VIOLENT DRUG CONSPIRACY**

Baltimore, MD - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that Anthony Joyner, age 23, of Baltimore, Maryland was sentenced today by U. S. District Judge J. Federick Motz to 10 years imprisonment, followed by 3 years of supervised release after pleading guilty to conspiracy to possess and distribute cocaine, heroin and cocaine base between 1995 and 2001.

According to the statement of facts, from at least 1995 through July 2001 Joyner was involved in a conspiracy to distribute heroin, cocaine and cocaine base (crack) in East Baltimore with a group of co-conspirators sometimes known as the Project Boys or L.A. Boys, as most of the members were originally from the Lafayette Homes Housing Project. Joyner and his co-conspirators distributed heroin, cocaine and cocaine base (crack) first in the Lafayette and Douglas Housing Projects and later, from the late 1990's through July 2001, in the vicinity of Washington and Lafayette, Lafayette and Chapel and Lafayette and Castle, North Avenue and Washington, in East Baltimore, and in West Baltimore, including drug shops in the vicinity of Pennsylvania and Gold.

The organization used and possessed firearms in furtherance of the drug conspiracy.

According to the statement of facts, in the fall of 2000 a dispute arose between the Project Boys and another east-side drug trafficking group known as the North Avenue Boys. The dispute led to a series of shootings and retaliatory shootings between the rival groups resulting in the deaths of five people, including Keith Hamlet, a member of the North Avenue Boys who was killed by members of this group on November 11, 2002. To date, ten of the federally indicted defendants have entered guilty pleas, several of whom are pending sentencing in federal court.

This case was investigated by federally deputized detectives from the Baltimore City Police Homicide Unit assigned to the DEA and federal agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Andrew G.W. Norman and John F. Purcell, Jr.